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Letter dated 9 March 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of a letter dated 9 March 2003 from Mr. Naji Sabri, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq, regarding the build-up of American and British troops near the demilitarized zone and the planned military aggression against Iraq.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mohammed A. **Aldouri**
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 9 March 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Further to the many letters we have addressed to you in the past concerning the build-up of American and British troops on Kuwaiti territory and close to the borders of the demilitarized zone separating Iraq and Kuwait, I should like to refer to the information I sent to the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM) on 7 March 2003 which indicated that, on 6 March 2003, the Kuwaiti authorities and American forces had made seven openings, each approximately 25 metres wide, in the electric fence separating Iraq and Kuwait and that the Kuwaiti authorities were intending to cut a further 35 similar openings by 15 March 2003, in anticipation of the planned attacks to be launched against Iraq by way of the demilitarized zone. The aforementioned information also indicated that, at 7.30 a.m. on 6 March 2003, an American F-15 aircraft had overflown the Iraqi section of the demilitarized zone, close to the port of Um-Qasr, and dropped pamphlets, written in Arabic, calling on Iraqi troops and citizens not to defend the port and to hand it over to the American forces when they came to occupy it.

The presence on Kuwaiti territory of massive groups of American and British troops who, aided and abetted by Kuwait, are ready to mount aggressions against Iraq, constitutes a violation of the Charter of the United Nations, in particular Article 2, paragraph 4, which reads as follows: "All Members shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state, or in any other manner inconsistent with the Purposes of the United Nations". These activities are also a blatant violation of the relevant Security Council resolutions concerning the situation between Iraq and Kuwait, which call on all States to respect the sovereignty, political independence and territorial integrity of Iraq.

I trust that, pursuant to Article 99 of the Charter of the United Nations, you will bring these new and dangerous developments to the attention of the Security Council so that, under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, it may take the necessary measures to tackle the situation, which poses a serious threat to international peace and security.

Furthermore, I would ask you to approach the Kuwaiti authorities and urge them to respect the demilitarized zone. In that connection, I should like to recall the obligations incumbent on Kuwait under the relevant Security Council resolutions and the resolutions adopted in the past two weeks at the Arab summit, the summit of the Non-Aligned Movement and the summit of the Organization of the Islamic Conference. All those resolutions reaffirm the rejection of aggression against Iraq, the willingness of the Arab States, the States members of the Non-Aligned Movement and the States members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference to abstain from participating in any military action targeting the territorial security, integrity and unity of Iraq and the fact that, in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations, Kuwait must assume the legal responsibilities incumbent upon it as a result of its participation in the aggression.

(*Signed*) Naji **Sabri**
Minister for Foreign Affairs